Workshop on Wikipedia Research[*]

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ABSTRACT

In the first Workshop on Wikipedia Research an overview of current research in and around the free encyclopedia will be given, as well as some practical guidelines on methods how to get and analyze data, and to get in contact with the community. Together we want to talk about differences and commonalities of Wikipedia and other wikis, and hot topics in Wikipedia research.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

H.m [**Information Systems Applications**]: Miscellaneous
I.7.1 [**Computing Methodologies**]: Document and Text Processing – *Document and Text Editing*

General Terms

Design, Documentation, Human Factors, Management, Theory

Keywords: Wikipedia, wiki, bibliography, review

1. INTRODUCTION

Wikipedia's mission – to "give free access to the sum of all human knowledge" (Jimbo Wales) can be called megalomaniac, in particular because of the wiki-principle of open and direct editability. But in recent years the project has shown to be of growing benefit and quality. Wikipedians have reflected about their project from the beginning, and there is a growing number of scientific papers in Wikipedia research. However it is difficult to analyze Wikipedia without basic knowledge of its particularities and some involvement in the community. The first workshop on Wikipedia research wants to bring together people interested in further research about Wikipedia, its content, users, and impact, as well as research with Wikipedia. A short overview of current Wikipedia research will be given as well as some practical guidelines on methods how to analyze data and where to get in contact with the community. This outline contains a brief overview that will be will be enhanced with detailed references in enhanced versions of the paper.

2. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Research about Wikipedia is done in many different disciplines with different types of publication. To collect and classify relevant literature I maintain a bibliography of wiki research together with

Patrick Danowski, and other fellows. It is accessible online at http://bibliography.wikimedia.de and up to now (2006-07-07) it contains 207 references. Research comes from disciplines like media studies, psychology, sociology, knowledge management, library and information science, and computer science. Because of the heterogeneity there is no core journal but publications and results can be found in conference proceedings, journal articles, magazines, student research papers, theses, weblogs, mailing lists, and last but not least at a multitude of distributed wiki pages. A detailed overview and estimations will be given in the workshop.

3. TOPICS

Coming from a broad spectrum of disciplines there are many topics treated in Wikipedia research. However you can find three broad foci, namely content, users and impact ('cui'). Works that deal with Wikipedia's content especially look at its quality and structure, works that deal with Wikipedia's users especially look at their motivation and collaboration, and works that deal with Wikipedia's impact look at how it is influenced and influences other system – for instance by means of comparisons with other encyclopedias, or explanations of its success. In the Wiki research bibliography works are classified in the following categories:

Content:	Studies focused on the content of a Wiki
Quality:	Quality issues, critics, management etc.
Semantics & KO:	Semantic Wikis and Knowledge Organization
Users:	General aspects of users and usage
Roles:	User roles in a Wiki/Wikipedia
Authorship:	Authorship in Wikis and Wikipedia
User Interaction:	Interaction of users (discussion etc.)
Impact:	Impact on society, publishing etc.
KM	Use for knowledge management
Teaching & Learning:	Use for Teaching and Learning
Usability:	Usability of Wikis/Wikipedia
Usage as Corpus:	Usage as a corpus for other research
Ethics:	Ethical aspects
History:	History of Wikis and Wikipedia

Additionally there are categories for *Software* (technical aspects), *Relatives* (not about Wikis but similar relevant systems), and two unsorted general categories *General* and *Wikipedia*. One of the goals of this workshop will be to advance this classification and to get a common vocabulary. The diversity of Wikipedia research where many works are little grounded in previous research shows that collaboration and interdisciplinary interchange is needed to adequately deal with Wikipedia's complexity.

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